



**PNG PORTS CORPORATION LIMITED**  
HEAD OFFICE, STANLEY ESPLANADE, PORT MORESBY  
PO BOX 671, PORT MORESBY, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
TELEPHONE: (675) 321 1400, FACSIMILE: (675) 321 1546  
E-MAIL: [enquiries@pngports.com.pg](mailto:enquiries@pngports.com.pg), WEBSITE: [www.pngports.com.pg](http://www.pngports.com.pg)

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**For immediate release**

## **Feature article**

### **PNGPCL promotes equal participation in its work place**

"We want to be recognised as individuals and team players who just as capable for doing what other people can do."

This was the remark from two PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) employees, Elias Larry who is partially paralysed from the right side of his body and Alphonse Teine paralysed from the left side of his leg.

Last year, PNGPCL donated a cheque of K10,000.00 to the PNG Paralympics Committee to assist in sending the team to the 2009 Arafura Games as well as sponsoring airfares for a team member worth almost K7,000.00 to the Beijing Games under its Community Service Obligation. (CSO)

Under this CSO arrangement with the PNG Paralympics Commitment Mr Larry and Mr Teine were engaged by the Company as casuals to assist staff to achieve real work outcomes.

The 25 years old Larry comes from a mix parentage of Gulf, Central and New Ireland and his colleague Teine who is 24 years old and comes from the Eastern Highlands Province.

Mr Teine was only able to complete grade 4 at his home province while Mr Larry successfully completed grade 10 at Red scar High in Port Moresby.

They both thanked PNGPCL for recognising them as individuals and providing an opportunity to display their skills and knowledge in a real work place.

"We are very grateful to PNGPCL for employing us as this show that the Company does not see us as disabled people but as people who can achieve real work outcomes as able people accomplish," they said.

Outside PNGPCL workplace, they are also competitive in the sporting arena particularly with disable games and have participated in national and international games such as the PNG Games as well as Arafura Games.

Mr Larry, a sprint athlete participates in the 100, 200 and 400 meters while Mr Teine, a power lifter takes part in the 50 kg division weight category. They are currently undergoing individual trainings in anticipation to make the Paralympics Team to take part in the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, India.

They encouraged other disable people not to be ashamed for their disabilities but use their abilities and skills to be recognised in the communities as individuals.

"Don't think that you have disabilities and these will prevent you to become ambitious. Show your abilities and skills and be recognised as individual as we are all equal in God's eye," they said.

PNGPCL is proud of being associated with these employees in promoting the Company's commitment in providing equal opportunities in its work place.

**Sighted by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Elias Larry  
**Casual Employee**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Alphonse Teine  
**Casual Employee**

**Edited & Endorsed by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Stanley Alphonse  
**Chief Commercial Officer**

**Authorised by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Brian Riches  
**Chief Executive Officer**

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Prepared by: Michelle Yiprukaman, Public Relations Officer  
Ph: 3084200/3084292